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24. A recombinant polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

25. A recombinant polypeptide encoded by one or more of the following:

- a) the nucleic acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:2
- b) a nucleic acid binding under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:2
- c) a nucleic acid having at least 95% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:2

26. A recombinant nucleic acid that is at least 95% identical to the nucleic acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:2.

27. A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 4 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a human B cell linker protein (BLNK protein).

28. A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted by SEQ. ID NO:2.

29. A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid which shows at least 95% identity to the nucleic acid sequence depicted by SEQ. ID NO:2.

30. A recombinant polypeptide which shows at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:1.

31. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide according to claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, or 9.

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32. An antibody which binds to a polypeptide according to claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, or 9.

33. A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of binding to a polypeptide according to claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, or 9, said method comprising combining a said polypeptide and a candidate bioactive agent, and determining the binding of said candidate agent to said polypeptide.

34. A method for screening for a bioactive agent capable of modulating the bioactivity of a polypeptide according to claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, or 9, said method comprising the steps of:

a) combining:

i) said polypeptide; and

ii) a candidate bioactive agent; and

iii) a protein selected from the group consisting of Grb2 and PLC- γ ;

and

b) determining the binding of said protein to said polypeptide;

wherein the absence of binding of said protein to said polypeptide indicates that said agent is capable of modulating the bioactivity of said polypeptide.

REMARKS

The Claimed Invention:

The claimed invention is directed to recombinant nucleic acids encoding B cell Linker Proteins (BLNK proteins), and expression vectors and host cells containing B cell Linker Protein nucleic acids. The claimed invention is further directed to a method of producing a B cell Linker Protein comprising culturing a host cell transformed with B cell Linker Protein nucleic acid and expressing the nucleic acid to produce a B cell Linker Protein. The claimed invention is also directed to recombinant B cell Linker Proteins and pharmaceutical compositions comprising B cell Linker Proteins. Additionally, the claimed invention is directed to antibodies capable of binding B cell Linker Proteins. The claimed invention is further directed to methods for screening for a bioactive agent capable